

Conquest of the West 11-Sentence Paragraph

Name _____

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PROMPT: Using information from the document, ideas from the above questions, and your own knowledge, write an 11 sentence paragraph explaining three impacts of westward expansion. You may want to use the words in the vocabulary box.

Although westward expansion helped the United States a great deal, it had huge impacts on the Plains Indians' culture, farming technology, and the cattle industry. Westward expansion nearly impacted the Plains Indians' culture because white settlers were taking their land and trying to assimilate them into the American culture. As white settlers moved west, they intruded on the Plains Indians' homes and forced them to live on reservations where they could not hunt for their most precious resource, the buffalo. As whites pushed west, the government passed the Dawes Act, which divided up Indian land and forced them to farm on individual plots of land. It also tried to Americanize them by sending them to school and trying to convert them to Christianity. A second impact of westward expansion was the Homestead Act, which gave 160 acres of land to anyone willing to farm it for five years. These homesteaders had to invent new technologies to make farming on the "Great American Desert" easier, such as: the steel plow, which helped to break up the soil, the windmill, which brought water out of the ground, and the reaper, which helped to harvest crops more quickly. These farmers also used railroads to transport their crops back east where they could be sold. Finally, the biggest impact on the west was caused by the cattle industry, ^{P-10} ~~this~~ ^{which} requested the extermination of the buffalo. In order to keep up with the supply and demand from the east, more and more buffalo were slaughtered to provide hides. (Doc 1) As the number of buffalo decreased, the cattle industry boomed, the invention of barbed wire allowed cattle ranchers to raise more cattle to replace the lost buffalo. In conclusion, westward expansion hugely impacted native American culture, farming technology, and the cattle industry.